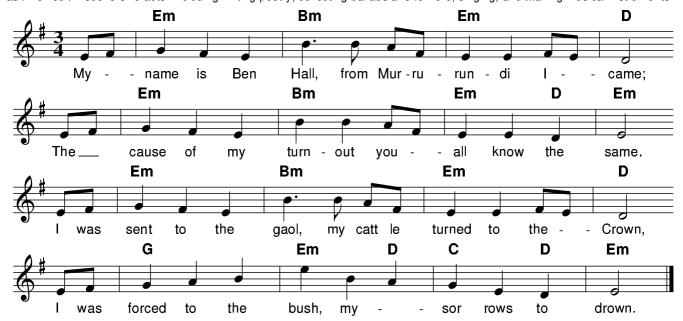
## My Name is Ben Hall

Words distilled by John Manifold from A B Paterson's Old Bush Songs and set to a varsovienna. Manifold (1915–85) was born into the squattocracy but time spent in England during the rise of fascism made him a 'partisan for peace'. Returning to post–war Australia his was involved in `subversive acts' including writing poetry, collecting ballads and folklore, singing, and making musical instruments.



I am always well mounted; with a gun in my hand, And I speak people fair when I bid them to stand; And I act most gently towards all womankind Tho' my false wife's behaviour is still on my mind.

I once met a squatter, I knew he had cash, For the evening before he'd been cutting a dash; But he handed straight over when my pistols I showed, So I gave back five pounds he might spend on the road.

Here's a health to Frank Gardiner that leader so fine And also Jack Vane who is serving his time! With my friends in the bush I'll distribute this wealth, And I always reserve my last shot for myself!